

Call for Applications – BioHuMS NSERC CREATE Program (Cohort 1)

The BioHuMS (Biodevices and Human Model Systems) NSERC CREATE Program invites applications for its first cohort of trainees. BioHuMS is an interdisciplinary training initiative designed to develop future leaders at the interface of bioengineering, human model systems, and translational therapeutics.

Program Vision

BioHuMS focuses on cutting-edge technologies for the prototyping, fabrication, and scaling of biodevices, alongside the development of complex, physiologically relevant human-based model systems. These platforms will be leveraged to advance next-generation therapeutic products, including vaccines and cell-based therapies. Trainees will gain hands-on experience while addressing key challenges such as patient-specific diversity, scalability, standardization, regulatory validation, and ethical considerations.

Eligibility

For our inaugural cohort, we are welcoming applications from graduate students (Master's and PhD) and postdoctoral fellows.

Applicants must be affiliated with or accepted into a participating BioHuMS institution or supervisor by September 1, 2026.

Training Environment

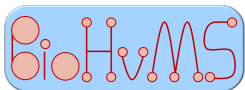
Selected trainees will benefit from:

- Interdisciplinary research and co-supervision
- Access to state-of-the-art facilities and platforms
- Collaborative opportunities across academia, industry, and clinical settings
- Professional development in regulatory, ethical, and translational aspects of biomedical innovation

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit the following documents as a single PDF:

1. **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
2. **Motivation Letter (max. 1 page)**
 - Describe your interest in BioHuMS, career goals, and how the program aligns with your training needs
3. **Academic Transcripts** (unofficial copies accepted) covering the past 2 years
4. **Research Proposal (max. 1 page)**
 - Outline a proposed project aligned with BioHuMS themes, including biodevice development and/or human-based model systems for therapeutic applications
 - Emphasize innovation, feasibility, and relevance to physiological complexity and translational impact
 - Please note, BioHuMS will not fund any research using or related to animal models.



5. Collaboration Statement (max. 0.5 page)

- Describe planned connections within BioHuMS (e.g., interdisciplinary collaborations, shared platforms, co-supervision, or partnerships)
- 6. A signed letter of support from their supervisor indicating their support for the applicant to participate in the program. The supervisor should also confirm that there is financial support for the remainder of the trainee's stipend not covered by the BioHuMS program for the duration of the trainee's participation in BioHuMS.

Program Requirements

Upon acceptance into the BioHuMS program, trainees are committed to participating in program activities for Technical Skills Development (e.g., mini courses, workshops, monthly lecture series, etc.) and Professional Skills Development (e.g., personal career development planning, EDI training, poster presentations, etc.)

Funding and Duration

Successful applicants will receive competitive stipends and access to program resources.

For our first cohort:

Master's students will receive a \$12,500 stipend/year.

Doctoral trainees will receive a \$20,000 stipend/year.

Postdoctoral fellows will receive a \$15,000 stipend/year.

Each trainee is eligible for up to \$1,000 support to participate in a conference to present their work during their time in BioHuMS program.

If an admitted trainee secures another major award/fellowship (e.g., NSERC CGS, CSC, etc), BioHuMS will provide a reduced stipend as top up. Details of the exact number are still being finalized.

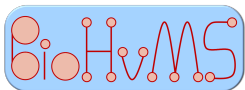
Stipend amounts from BioHuMS are subject to change based on updates to UBC and NSERC regulations.

For future cohorts, there will be calls each year with new students joining annually and current awardees eligible to reapply for continued support. We will communicate any updates to the stipend amounts in these calls.

Evaluation Criteria

The breakdown of evaluation criteria is as follows:

Criterion	Description	Weight
Experience and Preparation	Academic background, critical thinking, and demonstrated interest and/or engagement in areas relevant to bioengineering, human	15%



	model systems, translational therapeutics, or related interdisciplinary fields.	
Motivation and Program Fit	Demonstrated interest in the BioHuMS program, clarity of training and career goals, and alignment between the applicant's interests and the objectives of the program.	25%
Research Proposal	Quality and originality of the proposed project.	40%
Collaboration Statement	Strength of collaborative vision within the BioHuMS network.	20%

Submission Details

Please submit your application to program coordinator, Dr. Irene Shih, at irene.shih@ubc.ca using the naming convention "LastName_FirstName_BioHuMS2026" in the subject and name of the PDF.

Deadline: 5:00pm on July 5, 2026

Applicants will be notified of the decision by August 6, 2026.

For questions about the application, please contact irene.shih@ubc.ca